UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/22160
28 January 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 28 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Since Friday the 18th of January 1991, Israel has been the target of a series of destructive and unprovoked attacks:

On 18 January at 2.00 a.m., a salvo of Iraqi missiles was launched into Israel leading to the injury of 15 civilians and causing considerable property damage.

On 19 January at 7.30 a.m., Iraq again launched a missile attack against Israel, injuring 10 civilians and causing considerable property damage.

On 22 January at 8.37 p.m., missiles were fired by Iraq, which resulted in the death of 3 civilians and the injury of 95 others in the Tel-Aviv area.

On 23 January shortly after 10.00 p.m, a missile was lunched by Iraq toward the northern region of Israel. Although there were no injuries, property damage was sustained.

On 25 January at approximately 6.05 p.m., Iraq fired 7 missiles at the northern and central regions of Israel causing 1 fatality and 69 injuries.

On 26 January at 10.03 p.m., missiles were fired by Iraq towards northern and central Israel. No injuries were sustained.

Speaking to the Union of Arab Workers on 18 April 1990, Saddam Hussein said:

"... Our planes and missiles will reach Israel ... Indeed we have positioned our missile launchers facing west, not east."

(Iraqi News Agency)

On the eve of his invasion of Kuwait, Saddam Hussein threatened to destroy Israel, fully aware that Israel has no aggressive intentions against Iraq or any other Arab state. Later, on January 9th, during a press conference, Iraq's Foreign Minister went one step further. In response to the question: "If the war starts in the Middle East, in the Gulf, will you attack Israel?" - Tariq Aziz replied, "Yes, absolutely yes."

Saddam Hussein, who has used chemical weapons in his war with Iran, as well as having murdered thousands of his own citizens in this same horrible fashion, now threatens to use chemical weapons against Israel.

In a military ceremony on 1 April 1990, Saddam Hussein threatened to destroy Israel:

> "In the name of Allah, we shall light a fire that will engulf half of Israel should it take steps against Iraq ... we possess binary chemical weapons."
> (Iraqi Press Agency, April 2nd)

Iraqis actions have already caused loss of life, scores of injuries and damage to homes and property. These repeated use of force, in clear breach of the prohibition of threat and use of force in Article 2 (4) of the Charter of the United Nations.

The attacks were against civilians. The method of terror employed by Iraq against Israel, namely, intentional and unprovoked bombings is a flagrant breach of the norms of international law applicable between states.

Israel calls on all the members of the international community to condemn these deliberate attacks by Iraq on Israel's population and the resulting loss of life and suffering involved, and demands that such attacks cease immediately. Israel calls for appropriate and full reparations for Iraq's attacks.

Under these circumstances Israel reserves its right to call for a meeting of the Security Council as well as reserving its right to act in self-defense.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yoram ARIDOR
Ambassador
Permanent Representative